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ITALY





Despite its widespread nature, cyberbullying and bullying in general is not considered a crime in Italy. As such, bullying is only reported to the police in cases where the abusive behaviour takes a criminal form such as stalking or physical abuse - by which time it is often too late.



In may last year, Italy's senate unimously approved a draft bill to criminalize forms of cyberbullying and take measures to stamp it out in schools.



Cyber bullies and online stalkers could face between one and six years in prison, following the approval of a new anti-bullying law by Italy's Chamber of Deputies.



Under the proposed law, owners of a website – including blogs and social media accountshave 48 hours to remove offensive content before legal intervention from Italy's "Garante della privacy", the official institution in charge of protecing personal data.



Site moderators who fail to remove the offending content would face a fine, while those found quilty of cyber stalking or bullying, such as posting offensive content and circulating demeaning or offensive photos or videos, could be jailed for up to six years.

